

23rd September 2024

NPI TRAINING DAY



NPI window 2



Agenda

Presentation 10:15 to 11am

- Details for Window 2
- Recap on Window 1
- Website Updates
- Learnings from Window 1
- Updates on Spec window 2

One-on-one session 11-12

NPI Field walk



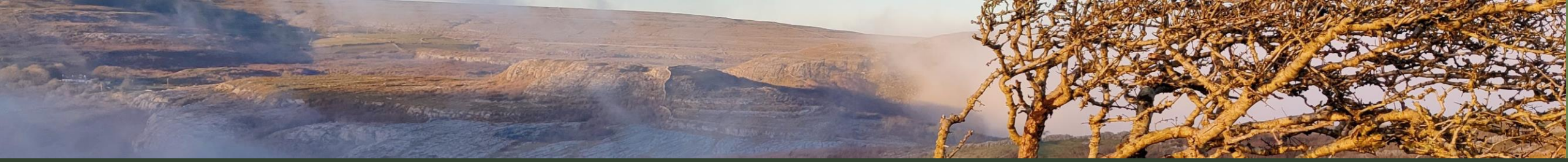
NPI Window 2

Next window open now until
31st October

C1 plans not processed until Q4

Farmers can have 2 plans open

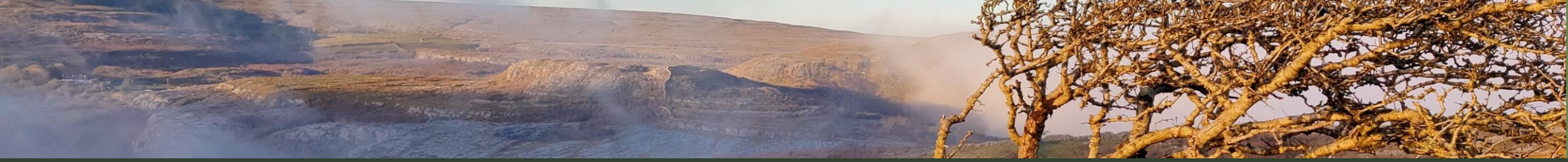




Window 1 recap

- 421 plans submitted
- 4,542 individual actions
- 35% of participants
- Completed screening
- Updated the specifications
- Awaiting plan turnaround and payments process

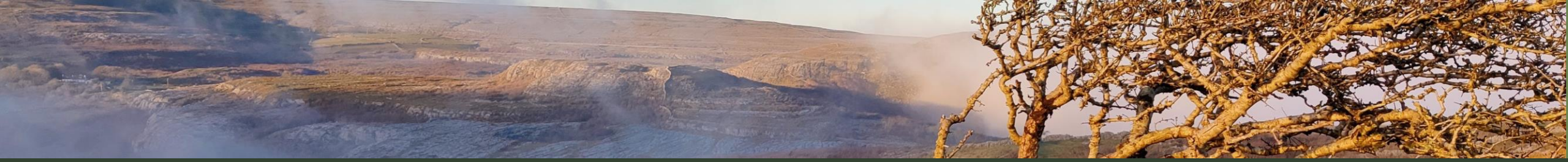




CP Team Role

- Set up a screening database
- Database accepted 70% of actions
- We analysed and approved 85% of actions
- 273 reports sent to NMS
- Site visited 140 farms





CP Team Role

- Compliance with NPI Spec
- Compliance with ARCs in designated areas
- Sought approval from NPWS, NMS, Co.Co's
- Met the farmers on site





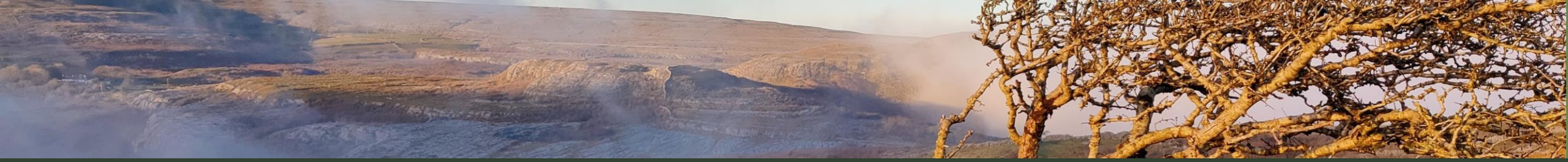
Actions most applied for

Gates
Stone Wall Repair
Water Troughs
Permanent Electric fencing
Barn Owl/Kestrel Boxes



Most rejections

Scrub Removal Areas High	64% rejected
Swift Boxes	57% rejected
Culverts	56% rejected
Planting 3 Trees	53% rejected
Track Resurfacing Gravel	38% rejected



www.acresburrenaran.ie/npi



Non-Productive Investments (NPIs)

NPIs are actions which you, an ACRES CP farmer can apply to undertake through your farm advisor and get paid for actions which you complete. Click on the links beside each action to watch a relevant video and the full specifications.

Water Provision

Water troughs, rainwater catchers, water storage tanks, solar water pumps and pasture pumps



Good examples

- 2 Barn Owl boxes
- Heritage Gate by road
- Bat boxes in large trees
- New Hedge by house
- Tree planting along boundary



Good examples

- 2 Barn Owl boxes
- 2 Orchards
- New Hedges by yard and between green fields
- All green land so other options limited





- Gates to divide up species-rich fields
- Some tree planting
- Solar Fencer units
- New Orchard



Winterage focus hoped for 2024

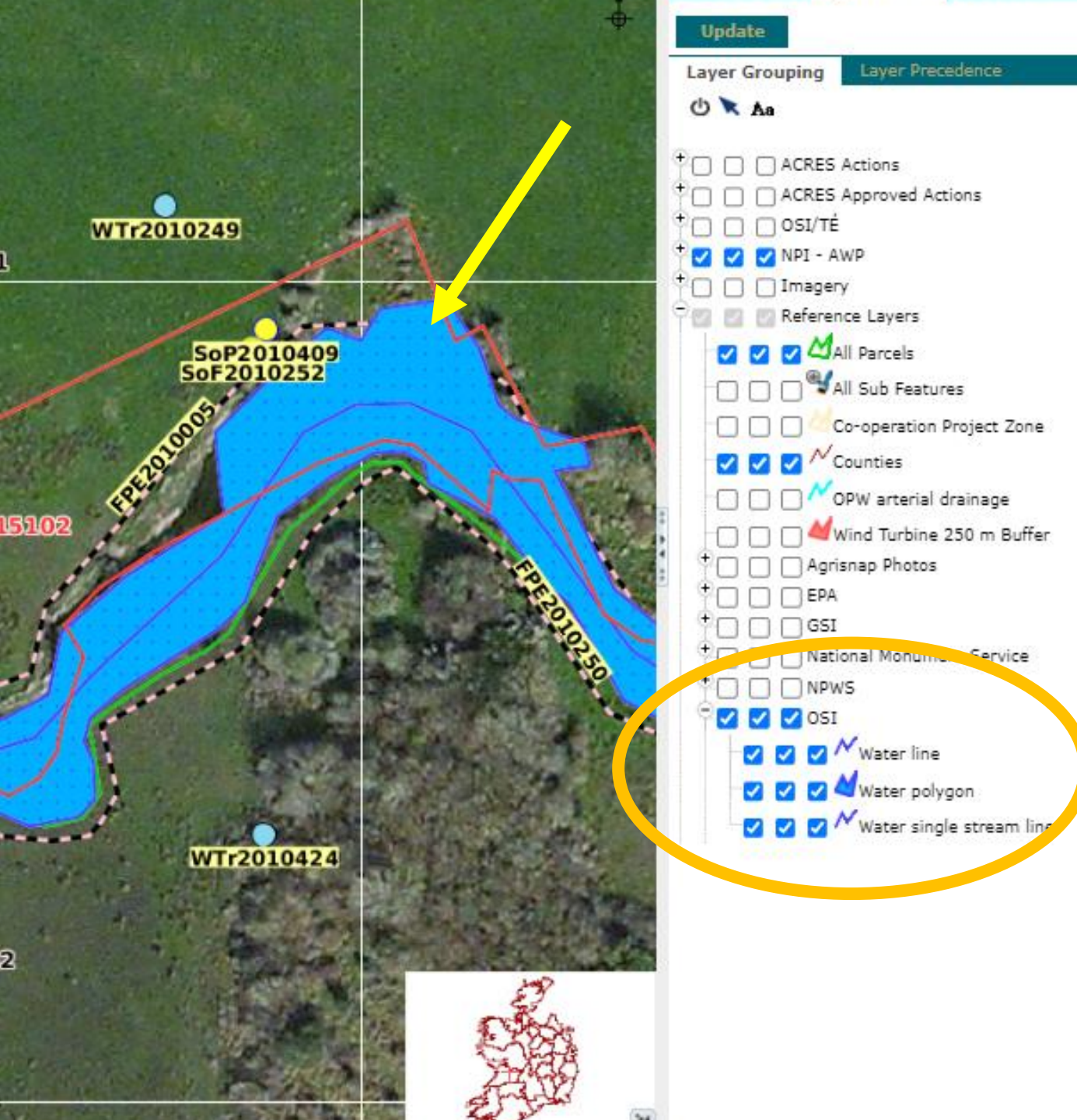
Try to encourage

- Scrub control
- Wall repair
- Water
- Gates



A few plans going over the 'payable' plan limits

ACRES NPI Action	INSERT QUANTITY DRAWN ON GLAM eg: '5'	Payment rate per drawn action	ESTIMATED PAYMENT - This turns red if maximum per plan is exceeded	Units per action
NPI Infrastructure				
NPI Culverts		€476.22	€0.00	1 point =
NPI Fencing Barbed Wire		€2.60	€0.00	Per m
NPI Fencing Permanent Electric		€1.52	€0.00	Per m
NPI Fencing Sheep Wire		€3.44	€0.00	Per m
NPI Installation of Gates		€185.61	€0.00	Per
NPI Solar Electric Fencer Unit		€257.50	€0.00	Per
NPI Solar Pumps		€1,852.50	€0.00	Per
NPI Water Storage Tanks		€798.66	€0.00	Per
NPI Water Troughs		€290.66	€0.00	Per
		Total Infrastructure NPIs	TOTAL: €0	



OSI water lines

- Now in GLAM
- Triggers an auto-rejection
- *'No actions allowed in water courses or drains'*
- CP teams need to manually override if justified

Invasives

Try to plan actions away from any areas with non-native invasives

May trigger automatic 'no' if site visit not possible



Key Feedback for Popular Actions



Barn Owl Boxes

- 2 per farm
- 3rd ok if 1km+ away
- Look for suitable open barns or mature tall trees

Don't plan on/in...

- Hedges or whitethorn trees
- Within woodland area
- Within 500m of motorway
- Tree/building with other boxes





Other Wildlife Boxes

- Plan away from other types of boxes
- Not in a hedge or whitethorns
- Swift boxes need an electronic caller, map around buildings.

Fencing

Non-designated land

- ✓ Along hedges, walls, roadways, watercourses, treelines etc.
- ✗ Not for dividing fields and creating paddocks

Designated land (SAC, SPA etc) or open upland or coastal scenic areas

- ✓ Must be replacing an **existing** fence.
- ✓ Dividing winterage from green land where appropriate



Re-surfacing Tracks

- Was partly unclear in old spec
- Only for tracks leading to or on winterages
- Not for new tracks
- Only map sections in need of re-surfacing



Wild Bird Cover

- Encourage on green land?
- Not within 50m of houses or public buildings
- €5.41 per metre





Bracken control

- CP team site check all proposals
- Don't map 'strimming' where tractors can (and will likely) access.
- Max of 1ha per year.
- 'Bruise' or 'cut' the bracken in late May and then again 6 weeks later.



Stone Wall Repair

- Not for stonewall maintenance.
- 2 sides need to be visible (tree-lines ok, but not if bound by dense scrub/hedge)

Pre-approval visits if...

- Large sections applied for
- Scrub on wall on satellite



Water Provision

- Prioritise on farms with water quality issues
- Water troughs not inside gates or in field corners
- Keep troughs/nose pumps 20m back from all water courses.



Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites

- Only draw one per overall monument
- Prioritise on monuments which require some control work
- If a lot of work needed, consider scrub control actions first

Tree Planting

- Good payment rate on small area
- Plan on species poor areas
- Plan Orchards close to houses, sheds or track





Only 7m between
these points

Minimum of 3 trees per point
Payment of €31 per tree
or €93 per point.
Points must be 12m apart
Trees must have individual
barbed guards or be fenced off

Hedgerows

- Good for boundary question (where only a wire fence)
- Accuracy is key
- Can be all whitethorn with 1 tree every 4m



Scrub Area Low

Bracken

Scrub

- Map as accurately as possible, and select the appropriate 'cover' band
- Don't map in areas of mature scrub
- Divide actions down
- Prioritise spreading scrub on grazeable areas

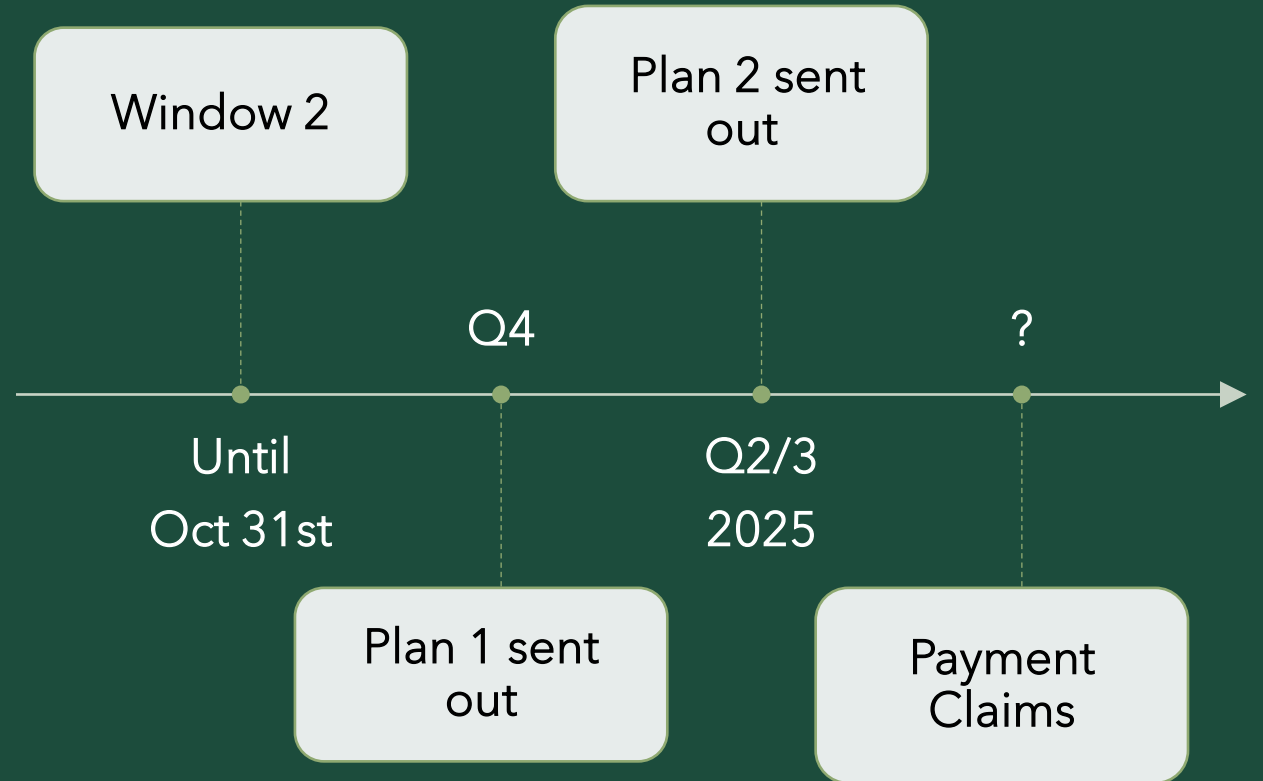


LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Proposed examples include:

- Machine Scrub Control
 - Full Stone Wall Rebuild
 - Natural Spring Protection
 - New Winterage Tracks
 - Wildlife Pond Creation
 - Invasive Species Control
 - Lesser Horseshoe Bat Roost
 - Peatland Restoration Actions
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- Anticipated window is.....Q2 or Q3 2025

Timeline





KEY MESSAGES

- Looking for a greater focus on winterage actions.
- NPI plans are partly expressions of interest, farmer not 'penalised' if proposed actions are not approved.
- CP team here to support you.